

THE S.P.G.B.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

THE S.P.G.B. has now decided to hold its first annual conference on the 15th and 16th of November, 1919, at the Central Hall, Westminster, London, W.C. The Conference will be opened by the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and every member of the party will be invited to attend. The Conference will be a platform for the discussion of the work of the party, and the progress of the cause of Socialism.

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This fact would largely obviate the need for a report of our proceedings, but as for various reasons the bulk of our membership could not be present at our meetings, we will proceed to detail our work during the first three months of the existence of the party."

The Report then after giving details of the party membership and the attendance of the members of the Executive Committee, resumes:

"We have to the best of our ability carried out the instructions you have given us. Mass meetings have been held in various parts of London with the twofold object of heralding the advent of the party and collecting funds for the extension of our propaganda, and in both respects we have had a record success. A lecture list has been organised which will well bear comparison with that of any political organisation holding propaganda meetings in the metropolis. The party has at its disposal over 15 speakers whose vigorous and sustained outdoor work has enabled us to hold over 90 meetings each Sunday and many others on week-days. Altogether about 300 propaganda meetings have been held since the inception of the party."

The lack of suitable literature soon made it self manifest, and the want of this most powerful instrument of propaganda has to a large extent negatived the good effect of our speakers' addresses. When the party was forced into existence, we found ourselves without any literature of our own, and an examination of the literature published by other organisations did not reveal very encouraging results. We did not, however, believe that bad literature was better than none, and decided to ask the branches to be careful of the literature they handled and recommended them for the time being to confine themselves to the list furnished them by this committee.

Many otherwise suitable pamphlets—among them several published in America—had to be discarded owing to the presence of objectionable advertisements, and even in the selected list some were found to which the same objection was raised. The question of the publication by the party of pamphlets explanatory of our position has engaged our attention, but pressure of business at the Centre and lack of the

party's own printing facilities has prevented us from publishing any of our own literature.

STATEMENT OF THE WORK OF THE PARTY

RECENTLY the Executive Committee of the S.P.G.B. has been asked to furnish a statement of the work of the party, and to this end the following statement is made:

"The S.P.G.B. is a Socialist party, and its object is to secure the establishment of a Socialist State, in which the means of production, distribution and exchange shall be owned and controlled by the working-class, and in which the workers shall be the masters of the State.

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THE TAXES.

... at the present time
... the working-class about the
... to Import Duties
... his Conservative friends
... advised that a large amount
... chief cause of unemployment
... among the working-class. This
... to the foreigners "dumping"
... our markets, underelling
... and thereby bringing about
... by preventing the home trader
... of his goods. The latter cannot
... the "foreigner's" market owing
... wall erected around it to keep
... the remedy comes to the front:
... the foreigner's goods, anything them, of
... the home trader, the English manufacturer will
... "dumping" and raise
... the cost of living to the community.
... the English manufacturer, the
... the English manufacturer, the
... the English manufacturer, with
... the English manufacturer, want
... to do. If Protection
... is applied in this
... which has just
... of trade, the
... between being
... and the foreigner, and
... with regard to the benefits of

the new Government, largely Liberals, claim that the present prosperity of "our" trade and "our" industry has been due to the abolition of the Corn-Laws and the general policy of Free Trade. "Our" wealth has increased by leaps and bounds, and "our" prosperity is marvelous; so presumably, in fact, that if Mr. Chamberlain's proposal to increase the tax on wheat is carried, the £1 or £2 increase in the retail price of the loaf of bread will cast the twelve or thirteen millions of people already on or below the poverty-line into the deepest depths of misery and wretchedness. It would not need a very elaborate calculation to estimate the date when, if "our" prosperity continues, the whole of the workers will be in the position of those before me.

Therefore as they, the Free Traders, are the "real friends" of the working-class, they call upon that class to vote them into possession of the political machinery for the purpose of saving the workers from this dire evil that is about to afflict them. True, some cantankerous persons, and others, in this party are chiefly concerned in serving their own ends, so that the rest of professedly "above-power" may, as a consequence, be chequed; but that following the abolition of the Corn Laws these humane manufacturers reduced wages in the textile industries by an average of about 14 per cent.; that they opposed the Factory Acts, which had been introduced to protect women and children, with all their power; that when returned to power in 1892 upon the well-known Newcastle program, while they sent soldiers to shoot down the miners of Fetherstonhaugh and a gunboat to "pacify" the dockers at Hull, they quite forgot to pass measures such as Payment of Members, Triennial Parliaments, One Man One Vote, Payment of Election Expenses, which they had pledged themselves to make law. Another might draw attention to the fact that a large section of this party import raw material and use large quantities of flour, etc., in the manufacture of cotton and other textiles, and that they are

Whatever may be the conditions at any given time, the capitalist always sells at the

quite as much concerned in cheap wheat for this reason as for giving the worker a big loaf.

The serious-minded worker who does his own thinking will probably at first be amazed at the money, the energy and dexterity expended by both sections of the capitalist class, or its agents, in this campaign—all for the benefit of the working-class. He watches them handling figures and statistics in a way that must cause Cinque Valfi to turn green with envy, each proving splendidly that the poverty and misery is bound to increase if the proposals of the other side are adopted! If, however, he turns from the assertions, contradictions, and general bewilderment that surrounds these howling Cheap Jacks and examines the facts of the situation calmly, his amazement will disappear.

Of course, it will be easily understood that if there were no working class to exploit, the capitalist class would have to work to keep itself, and they are therefore bound to return to the workers sufficient of the wealth they have produced to keep them in a state of working efficiency and to reproduce their kind.

The same cause of increase of "our" trade and "our" wealth has been due to the abolition of the Corn-Laws and the general policy of Free Trade. "Our" wealth has increased by leaps and bounds, and "our" prosperity is marvelous; so marvelous, in fact, that if Mr. Chamberlain's proposal to increase the tax on wheat is carried, the 5d. or 1d. increase in the retail price of the loaf of bread will cast the twelve or thirteen millions of people already on or below the poverty-line into the deepest depths of misery and wretchedness. It would not need a very elaborate calculation to estimate the date when, if "our" prosperity continues, the whole of the working-class will be in the position of those before mentioned.

"real basis" of the working-class, they call upon the State to vote them into possession of the political machinery for the purpose of saving the workers from this dire evil that is about to be inflicted upon them. True, some cantankerous persons may think that this party is chiefly concerned in levying cheap food, so that the cost of production of wheat, sugar may, as a consequence, be cheapened; that following the abolition of the Corn Laws, the humane manufacturers reduced wages in the textile industries by an average of about 14 per cent.; that they opposed the Factory Acts, which had been introduced to protect women and children, with all their power; that when returned to power in 1892 upon the well-known Newcastle program, while they sent soldiers to shoot down the miners of Fagthorstone and a gunboat to "pacify" the dockers at Hull, they quite forgot to pass measures such as Payment of Members, Triennial Parliaments, One Man One Vote, Payment of Election Expenses, which they had pledged themselves to make law. Another might draw attention to the fact that a large section of this party import raw material and use the world."

"But," says the Free Trader, "all taxes fall upon the consumer, and therefore the workman will have to pay increased prices for the articles he purchases if a tax is placed upon them." The obvious retort is that as the working class are the only producers, but not the only consumers, it is from the former point of view that they should look at the matter. But apart from this, the statement is not true of itself. Prices are determined primarily by the cost of production, and immediately by supply and demand. The variations in the latter cause prices to fluctuate, but the point above and below which they move, and tend to come to rest, is the value of the article—or, technically, all commodities exchange upon the average at their value. If owing to circumstances a commodity were being sold above its value, fresh capital would soon be turned in that direction, and competition and extra supply would cause prices to fall. If being sold below its value, part of the capital would be withdrawn, and the diminished supply, other things remaining constant, would cause prices to rise to the normal level.

highest price the market will bear at that period. Articles that are easily produced are often taxed without affecting the retail price at all, as shown in the taxes on tea, beer, and spirits, while in the case of tobacco one grade is sold retail at a price almost equaling the tax imposed! When the 1d duty was laid on corn the price of bread rose in a few districts, but in the majority of cases it remained stationary, and when the duty was removed the wholesale price of corn rose! House rent offers another good example. Often when the landlord raises the rent he makes the excuse that the rates have gone up, but he never dares to lower them when rates go down, showing thereby that it is only an excuse, and that while competition for houses continue rents will rise. When the Central London Railway was opened the competition for houses in Shepherd's Bush increased largely, and as a consequence rents rose as much as 3s. in the £. This was the limit offered for the time being, and when shortly after rates were raised by a good sum, the rents remained unaltered. At West Ham, which is the most heavily rated district in England, rents are falling, while rates are rising, owing to the decreased demand for houses. These illustrations show how little the question of rates affects the workers who pay rent.

This is still more true regarding so-called monopolies whose productions are sold at the highest price obtainable consistent with the carrying on of business, and even if they were taxed up to the point of absorbing profits, other things remaining constant, the business might close, but obviously prices could not be raised. An instance from Australia may be cited. The Standard Oil Company have a practical monopoly of the petroleum oil entering that continent, and until a short time ago a duty of 3d. per gallon was levied upon it. The company charged 6d. per gallon to the retailers, who paid the tax and sold the oil at 1d. per gallon. An agitation was set on foot to have this tax taken off "the poor man's oil," which after some perseverance was effected.

On the same day that the duty was abolished Rockefeller raised the price to the retailers to 9d. a gallon, who sold it to the consumers at the same price as before—in other words, Rockefeller was relieved from paying the tax that until then he had paid upon his product entering the country, and the working class were in exactly the same position as before. In London the abolition of the coal duty levied by the City authorities did not alter the retail price one farthing.

It is thus easily seen that if the whole of the taxes were abolished it would not benefit the working class unless competition among the capitalists drove prices down in proportion, and then others would benefit as well, while the workers would have to resist a reduction of wages.

The question thus becomes reduced to one of a quarrel between the big and the little thieves as to the apportionment of the cost of maintaining the present system, and is expressed mainly by the small middle-class forming various tax-reform parties with the object of curtailing the powers of the monopolists and big capitalists. Being only really concerned with the problem of how to stop the robbery under which they suffer, the workers should take no stock of the quarrel over the paying of the expenses of the burglary. Whether he is living in a country whose fiscal policy is based on Free Trade or in one in which it is based upon Protection; whether the country is highly rated or otherwise; whether the district he lives in is highly rated or the reverse, makes little difference; the worker finds that whatever of the above conditions he may be under, a subsistence is all that upon an average he gets.

Firmly gripping the above sound and logical position. The Socialist Party, the only party really representing the workers, makes its attack upon the central pivotal position—to capture the political machinery and therewith control of the economic powers and social forces—taxation and the armed forces of the nation, for the purposes of ending the robbery by overthrowing the system of Capitalism, emancipating the working class, and laying the foundations of the So-

CHAMBERLAIN has evidently undermined the economic basis of the Kilcockditch Branch of the S.D.F. The members have resolved:

That, before the beginning of the great distress amongst our fellow-workers in London, the T.U.C. and the T.C.C. to have the building of a temporary bridge for the Thames traffic carried out as far as possible on the Thames Embankment, affording to some extent the sheltering of the workers of this great metropolis.

This contribution towards the solution of the unemployed problem will, doubtless, receive due consideration from the LCC and the Taffi Reform League. For an alleged Socialist contribution to a solution of the unemployment problem in this region, and to suggest dealing with the "imperial" unemployed problem in one locality, is of intensifying it in another. In the membership of the Cheltenham Co-operative Congregation, there are many people who, when they join the Cheltenham General Strike action.

and *Labour Leader* are adopted by W. T. Steadman as adopted by W. T. Steadman and the *Daily News* and the *Standard* for Finance, and it is certain that who is reported to have been the author of the *Standard* article on the weekend of *Stoppage* to strike at the *Standard* and *Labour Leader* is not a member of the Liberal candidate. It is clear the Steadman has something but a very weak link in the Liberal faction of the Master class? Twelve months ago the Tribune, when he maintained a letter which had been sent to the *Standard*'s Election Committee, gave this version of Steadman:—

"It is not in the S.D.P. except the aid of W. C. Steadman, who runs after a Liberal Labour candidate, that I consider they are morally bound to support Steadman's candidate if asked to do so. No one conscientious Socialist could do so, as only so recently as last September he was the chief speaker at a Liberal demonstration at Gray's, at which he is reported to have urged the audience to return a Liberal member at the next election. Socialists cannot logically support candidates who ally themselves with any section of the Capitalist Party, and, therefore, cannot honestly accept aid from them for Socialist candidates."

What do the *Labour Leader* and the *Clarion* expect? "Can the leopard change his spots, or the Ethiopian his skin?"

According to the *Daily Express*, it is an unpleasant and appalling fact that lunacy is steadily increasing in England and Wales, and it is startling to find that whereas one person in every 327 was certified as insane in 1894, the figures for 1904 are one in 238. But to the Socialist there is nothing startling in the fact. As the struggle for existence becomes more intense, as we speed up, as the raging, tearing, hurrying and scurrying possess us, and as the position of the worker becomes more precarious, we must expect that the mental equilibrium will be disturbed. The returns show that the numbers of insane known to the Commissioners have for some time past been increasing at a greater rate than the growth of population. While the rate of increase in the population during the last decade was 12·2 per cent., the rate of increase of the insane was 24·4 per cent.

Those fanatical teetotallers who declare that it is only necessary to close public-houses in order to empty our lunatic asylums, should ponder over the fact that the Commissioners certify that 'alcoholic intemperance is responsible for not more than 22.8 per cent of insane males and 9.5 per cent of insane females.' W.A.

have no desire to minimize the effect of these figures, but it must not be forgotten that in many cases where intemperance is certified as a cause, it is itself an effect of the overcrowding, insanitary, ill-ventilated, and generally unhealthy conditions under which the workers work and exist. Dr. David Walsh, in his paper on "Unwholesome Workshops and Drink" declared that anything which weakened the health of the individual predisposed him to the use of alcohol, and no sensible person will dispute this. There is only one way by which the health of the people can be secured and maintained, and that is by the reorganization of Society upon the basis laid down by the Socialist Party of Great Britain.

As Mr. Featherstone Asquith is now denying that he was responsible for the shooting of the miners, it will be useful for our propagandists to note the following reference to the matter which he made in his speech at Glasgow on the 17th October, 1893:

"The year that had gone by had been distinguished by a large number of deplorable industrial disputes. Those disputes had culminated in what had been a most serious and regrettable conflict—he alluded to the dispute between the coalmasters and colliers in the Midland parts of England. In his character as Secretary of State for the Home Department, it had been his duty to take executive action in more than one of those cases for the maintenance of the law and for the prevention of disorder, and he accepted the full responsibility for every thing that had been done."

Asquith is a Liberal. So also are Bell, Crooks, Henderson, Shackleton, Steadman, and others receiving the support of the L.R.C. The I.L.P. openly supports the L.R.C., but the S.D.F. does not affiliate to it nationally, although it permits its prominent members to attend the Conferences and be adopted as L.R.C. candidates. W. Thorne has not yet been called upon to resign his membership of the S.D.F. for having decided to run as a "Labour" candidate, although for the same backing-down A. E. Holmes was requested to send in his resignation. Moreover, since Thorne has fallen into line with the L.R.C. conditions, he has been publicly supported by Quach, Jones, Hayday, and other well-known members of the S.D.F., at a demonstration at which he declared that:

"he believed the eight hours day was the most important of all questions."

For such is the S.D.F.! Quinch and his friends support Thorne; he supports Alden Crooks, Steadman, and Co.; Alden Steadman, and Co. support Asquith and Co.; and E. Belfort Bax writes letters, which are published in the Press, from the National Liberal Club! No wonder we are asked by a correspondent whether the S.D.F. still assert that there is no difference between Liberals and Tories, and whether we can explain what they mean by their continual references to "keeping free from entangling alliances"? We cannot: we give it up.

At the annual conference of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association held last month at the Bournemouth, the President in his opening address, said that the Public Health Acts could not be administered in many places owing to the fact that the officers held their appointments from year to year, and were in consequence dependent upon the goodwill of individual members of the authority appointing them. What member of the association of some years' experience had not been covertly or openly threatened by some member or members of the authority, or by those aspiring to the office, either attacking his insanitary property, seeking his unsound—or sampling his adulterated—food? Quite so, and so long as the governing institutions are controlled by the capitalist class, the legislation and administration will be in the interest of that class. And mere Labourian will not alter it. Many a "Labour" member makes the best possible supporter and defender of Capitalism and its works.

The capitalist press is filled with articles concerning the out-of-works, the homeless, free-meals, and other pastimes to which the capitalist class devotes its attention when other things pall. There is no question about things being terribly bad, and that they have not yet touched bottom. In the business world there is a general complaint of slackness of trade and tightness of money—the latter being perennial with the wage-worker. Speaking for the Church Army last month, Mr. Colin F. Campbell told a *Daily Telegraph* representative that he shared the general opinion that the approaching winter was likely to be one of very great severity for the poorest of the poor. During the summer months their Labour Homes had been without exception full, and he had never known that to be the case during the 12 years he had been there. There were more of the better class of people asking help than there had ever been. Canon Scott Holland, preaching in St. Paul's Cathedral on September 11th, gave the following word-picture of London to-day :

"Look at London to-day! Sum up its story! It's poverty! It's nakedness! It's suffering! There it all waters! Can we not go closer down into it? Can we not fling into it our reason, our imagination, our conscience—so that we actually see what the unhappy see, and feel what the wronged feel, and burn with their indignation, and pray with their prayers? This is not done—not done even so much as it was done. There is a slackening of social interest—a deadening of social reform. People do not care as they did. There is no movement. Everything that we hoped for is caught in some dismal backwater. Yet the poor babies still die in their hundreds, simply through the murderous infamy of the conditions into which they are born. And the sweated women still toil from morning to night for a starvation wage, as literally, as intolerably, as ever! And the aged poor are more than ever left behind out of the marching host. And the weak invalids are still squeezed down to the level of the criminals and the loafers. We should never let such things be if we really identified ourselves with those who suffer under them—if we took their sorrows as our sorrow—if we were made one with their need."

Such is the picture, not overdrawn in the slightest detail. Cynics will note that it has been drawn in the chief institution of the Christian Church, that class organisation which has so ably assisted the capitalists in their efforts to keep the people down. And what is said here of London can be said of every large and wealthy city throughout the world. It is Hell! After two thousand years of Christianity, after centuries of middle-class domination, after years of Tory and Liberal Government, London is Hell! And no matter where we turn, one mad force imposes itself upon us and demands solution. In Monarchical Britain, in Kaiser-inflicted Germany, in Republican France, in Free America, in Despotic Russia, it is Hell for the proletariat. The problem of world-wide poverty in the midst of plenty will never be solved by sermons, prayers, Labour Homes, or Labour Leaders. It will only be solved when the people assume the ownership and control of the means of life, and produce for their own use instead of for idlers. To prepare the proletariat for this complete revolution is the mission of The Socialist Party of Great Britain.—K.

A New York cable states: "A law which comes into operation to-day (Sept. 1st, 1904), makes it bribery for an employer to pay money to a labour leader to avert a strike. Hitherto blackmail of this kind has been exceedingly common."

LITERATURE AGENCY

Branches and members should purchase their literature through the Party Agent, F. C. Watts, 154, Ashmore Road, Paddington, London, W. Write for particulars as to terms, etc.

CENTRAL ECONOMIC CLASS.

The class meets weekly and is free to all. On application to J. Fitzgerald, 34, Wilmington Square, London, W., full particulars will be given.

This is another theory for the older men in the movement, and it is a very plausible one, in order to account for the fact that the movement, and especially the older men in the movement, are not very successful in any of the things they are trying to do.

This movement, however, is not one of strata of judgement, but it is one of error, that should not have been made if the R.D.F. and S.D.F. members had had a clear understanding of Socialist policy. "He that is not with us is against us," whether he is avowed Capitalist or alleged Labour.⁵ I say, one such mistake in action on the part of any local body of Socialists may be forgiven, but a repetition of the error is a crime against the movement. And this is what we are faced with to-day in West Head. There is the same aspiration abroad now as there was then. The aspiration is, perhaps, not yet avowed, but it is expressed in action. The local S.D.F. Councillors, who lead the remainder of the members, are anxious once again to form a composite Socialist-Labour nondescript party, which they hope will be strong enough to form a majority of the Council. These men are supporting Alderman White, a Liberal Passive-Resister, who is a candidate at the forthcoming municipal elections, because, forsooth, "he is in sympathy with Labour."

The result of the first mistake was a great set back to Socialist propaganda in West Ham. A second such error would have disastrous effects were it not for the existence of a branch of the Socialist Party of Great Britain, who will keep the position clearly before the people, and publicly expose those who would mislead them. Such tactics undoubtedly cause confusion in the minds of the workers. They are not all heaven born politicians and wirepullers like the S.D.F. members of the West Ham Town Council.

Mr. Will Thorne, of the S.D.F., who was to have been the Socialists' Parliamentary candidate for South West Ham at the next General Election, is now, we are informed, to run as the Labour candidate under the auspices of the Labour Representation Committee. Not that this makes much difference, for Thorne already had his bands firmly tied by his pledges to his union, the Catholicks, and the Passev Ministers. So even if he understood what Socialism means—which he never did—and was elected—which is not probable—he would be so firmly bound by his pledges that he would not be able to act as an exponent of Socialism in the House. Our S.D.F. friends have not yet even learned that elementary political lesson for Socialists, viz., to keep free from entangling alliances.

One of the things which Socialists have so fiercely criticised and held up to public scorn,

A high-contrast, black and white image showing a dense, textured surface, possibly a wall or a heavily processed photograph of a textured object. The image is framed by a thick black border.

by Forum Crystal with 2000

19. *Leucosia* (Leucosia) *leucostoma* (Fabricius)

country, while others who have been
local governing bodies are not in
the other large order. But I have
not very far from my mind. Whether that has
not, is independently necessary, this particular
organization, that is, that you, the
country, should have their hands clean and
above suspicion. Not, how can they ordi-
nate and excommunicate their opponents?

Now, the present "Socialist" representatives with two notable exceptions—do not above approach. Apart from accepting grants from contractors—which no Socialist could ever do—whether it influences his vote when contentious before the Board or not, they have been parties to what is not an unusual occurrence on this Board, namely, working their relatives into jobs or positions under the Board. They may say that a certain well-known, so-called Labour member has done this, and in so doing they are only following his lead. But the representatives are not on these administrative bodies to follow. They are there to initiate, and more certainly not to follow a lead of this kind. Nor are they there to hob-nail with

ical, and to eat and drink at their expense. The excuse that other persons do so is no excuse for Socialists, but—and the obligation of the public should be down to this—it will excuse, why it is that the members are unable to get along with the officials in a suitable manner when they “dorothy” of duty takes place—and such members are not uncommon—and why it is that the officials of the West Han Board are the masters of the members instead of the members of the board being the masters of the officials.

The result in West Ham of this political in-guine and these corrupt practices—though shape, not legally corrupt, they are from a Socialist point of view—has been to put back the clock for years, and although I am sure there is a warning to keep clear of both these practices is unnecessary to members of the Socialist Party of Great Britain, this article will have served a useful purpose if it opens the eyes of members of the so-called Socialist organisations and the public to what an unbiased observer appears to be trickery, which is not an unsuccessful trickery, and practices that cannot be condoned. H.G.H.

es that on

19. *Leucosia* (Leucosia) *leucostoma* (Fabricius) (Fig. 19)

THE PRACTICAL

David G. Stier is a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and a former member of the U.S. Senate. He is the author of *How to Win Friends and Influence People* and *How to Win Friends and Influence People in Politics*.

who will not reward a party that has been so
cavalier or Tropic. An effort will be made
posthaste to do with the party as it is
and to sever its connection with the
new Government.

Truly, "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."—
Yours fraternally,

Gravestad, Sept. 8, 1901. ALEX PEARSON.

ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTIONS

J. H. KENNEDY (Mild) - As we have no state of college education among our members, we cannot say why a college education should be necessary in order to understand our constitution. Having listened to you, we will do what we can. We believe that our members are of certain portions of our society, and therefore do not hesitate to provide them with degrees of graduation.

H. Knewant.—Thanks for suggestions, one of which you will observe has been adopted in this issue. The other matter is better considered.

S.W.T.L. (Pockham).—We have an article in hand dealing with the subject of your query. Classour for what you want and you will get it when space and other things permit.

B. M. Jones.—Certainly not. The object of our journal is to expound the principles of Socialism. If you have any suggestions to offer which might enable us the better to carry out that object, by all means send them along. What you suggest is not Socialism.

J. SAMUELS (Stratford).—This is the inevitable outcome of supporting fakirs of any kind. We are watching the situation with interest, and shall act in the true interests of Social-Democracy. We refer you to our Branch Directory for the information you require.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

OBJECT.

The establishment of a system of society based upon the ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of the whole community.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN
HOLDS—

That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., land, factories, railways, etc.) by the capitalist or master-class, and the consequent enslavement of the working-class by whose labour alone wealth is produced.

That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, antagonism which is the class struggle, between those who possess and do not possess, and those who produce but do not possess.

That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation and incorporation of the working-class from the domination of the master-class, by the transfer of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the working-class.

That in the order of social evolution the working-class is the class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working-class will involve the emancipation of all mankind without distinction of race.

That the emancipation must be the work of the working-class.

That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly by the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working-class must organise consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, national and local, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of privilege, aristocratic and plutocratic.

That as all political parties are but the expression of class interest, and as the interest of the working-class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master-class, the party seeking working-class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.

The Socialist Party of Great Britain, therefore, enters the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labour or avowedly capitalist, and calls upon the members of the working-class of this country to muster under its banner to the end that a speedy termination may be wrought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labour, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

FROM OUR BRANCHES.

Reports from Branches for insertion under this heading must be in before the 20th of each month, otherwise they cannot appear.

BATTERSEA.

Surprised and weary of the conflicting tactics and vacillating policy of the S.D.F., the members of this branch, some of them veterans in the Socialist movement, were among the first to come forward and raise the red flag from the mire through which it was being dragged, and are proud of having assisted in the formation of The Socialist Party of Great Britain, which now so worthily bears that flag aloft. To combat the compromising nature of the compromise and opportunism of the S.D.F. as well as the influence of that local Tammany Hall-like organization of the "Statesmen of Labour" and his "healers," we have all through the summer conducted a vigorous campaign, holding three propaganda meetings every Sunday, besides the usual week night meetings. As a result we are able to report a gratifying increase in membership. In addition we have an Economic Class, meeting

on Thursdays, and a History Class, meeting on Fridays, both commencing at 8 p.m., to which all members of the party are heartily invited. The only condition of membership is regular attendance.

We of the Battersea branch fully realize that all our time and energies are required for the work of educating the workers to a clear conception of the causes of their misery, and of organizing them so that they will concentrate all their efforts upon the capture of the political machine which is held and used by the master class as an instrument of oppression and exploitation. We have no time, therefore, to waste in appeals to the capitalist class for measures of reform, because we know that nothing short of complete economic freedom, and nothing short of the overthrow of capitalism, will put an end to the system under which the robbery and oppression of the worker goes on.

No, comrades, what we want the oppressor will never give. The workers themselves must achieve their emancipation. "He who would be free must himself strike the blow." It is our part to show the worker how the blow must be struck.

We echo the cry of our comrade Lehane. The watchword is *Onward!* to the Socialist Republic. —THE MAN WITH THE RED FLAG.

EAST LONDON.

This branch is not very large in numbers, but we try to make up by energy what we lack in that respect. The district we are working in, perhaps, the most poverty-stricken in the metropolis, and should by a lot of hard work and well organised, offer good ground to spread the seed of Socialism and build up a strong branch of The Socialist Party.

The far eastern portion, viz., Poplar, Bromley, Stepney, is the hot-bed of the alleged Labour leader, who, so far as possible, does everything to confuse the minds of the working class as to their correct position, and as a consequence the working class are apathetic and indifferent regarding their social welfare.

The work of this branch is to give a clear exposition of the conflict of interests between the working class and the master class, which in this district is made most intensely manifest, to arouse that enthusiasm which arises from class consciousness, and to organise the workers into The Socialist Party determined to wage war against Capitalism and all its supporters, with the ultimate object of securing its complete overthrow.—W.W.

EDMONTON.

One of our most successful meetings was held on Sept. 4, addressed by Comrade Lehane. I mention it particularly because at that meeting we introduced THE SOCIALIST STANDARD and sold it in large numbers, because the current issue of *Justice* had a reference to us in which the comic element strove in vain to outdo the false, but which our comrade, a comparative stranger to the local circumstances, was easily able to thoroughly discredit; and also because as a result of the foregoing, the meeting was made the occasion of those silly S.D.F. attacks we had hoped were things of the past. We realise that for some time to come considerable clearing away of misconceptions will be necessary before the Socialist party shall reap the full reward of its labour.—A. ANDERSON.

FULHAM.

Despite the fact that we have had to open up a station for our open-air work, our propaganda meetings have been well attended; the number of THE SOCIALIST STANDARD we have been able to dispose of being very good, considering the disadvantages under which we have laboured. Judged by the character of the questions we are called upon to answer, especially in regard to alleged labour and semi-Socialist bodies, our work is beginning to tell, and there is every possibility of our numerical strength, small though it is at present, being considerably augmented in the near future. If all good Socialists, attached or unattached, would but appreciate the importance of being associated with an organisation such as ours, based as it is upon sound principles and pursuing as it does a straight and clearly defined policy, how much more effectively would we be able to accomplish the work we are called upon to do in this district! However, we have made a commencement, and are on the way to overtake, perhaps to beat even, the Islington record.

We are endeavouring to have a series of meetings at Fulham Cross on Thursday evenings at 8.30, and if any speaker happens along that way we shall be pleased to greet him and utilise his services.—E. J. B. ALLEN, Sec.

ISLINGTON.

The Comrades of "Merrie Islington" are certainly justifying their existence as a branch of the Socialist Party of Great Britain, and can, without undueegotism, look back upon a month's hard propaganda and feel highly satisfied with the results thereof.

Our morning meeting of Sunday, September 4th, in Finsbury Park, established, I believe, a record for the party. A large audience listened while Comrade Lehane stated the case for Socialism as the only solution for the many evils and problems that exist around us, and at the close of the address subscribed 15s. 4d. to our war chest, besides purchasing 8 pamphlets and 69 copies of The Socialist Standard. The rest of our Sunday meetings, although not quite such financial successes, have resulted in good sales of literature. Plenty of questions are always

